THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Proceedings of Parliament against Dr. Sacheverell, *and their Addresses in Favour of Mr.* Hoadly. *A Caution to our Clergy in their* 30th *of* January *Sermons. A Letter from a Justice of Peace about an Act for setting poor Prisoners, &c. at work.*

From Wednesday, December 14. to Saturday, December 17. 1709.

Country-m. NOW, Master, I can tell you good News. Our noble Patriots and Representatives, the Commons of *Great Britain*, have taken Dr. *Sacheverell* to task, order'd an Impeachment to be drawn up against him for high Crimes and Misdemeanors on Account of his two Sermons, and their Dedications; which is more than a sufficient Justification of you and I, whom the High-Flyers doom'd to the Gallows and Hell, for our Reflexions upon those Sermons, and because we compar'd them to those for which Dr. *Manwaring* was impeach'd in 1628.

Obs. I rejoyce at no Man's Calamity, *Roger*, and much less at the Misfortunes of one who bears the Character of a Minister of the Gospel; but if such Men will prostitute their sacred Function, and apply it to other Uses, than those which God appointed it, the civil Government is oblig'd to check and censure them; for the supreme Power is *Custos utriusq; tabulæ*, they are to see that Clergy-men, as well as others perform their Duty to God and Man, and to punish them for Failures in either. So that our honourable Representatives deserve both the Prayers and Thanks of the Nation for what they have done in this Matter. 'Tis a glorious and seasonable Rebuke to the pestilent Faction, who so audaciously attack'd her Majesty's Title and Administration, and so furiously sapp'd the Foundations of our Religious and Civil Liberty, the Defence of which, has cost us so much Blood and Treasure. This will immortalize our present Parliament in the Records of Fame, and make their Memory precious to all Posterity. 'Tis a Blow at the Root of arbitrary Power, and of the slavish and misapply'd Doctrine of Non-Resistance and Passive-Obedience. 'Tis an effectual Disappointment of our false Brethren at Home, and of our Sworn Enemies Abroad, who encourag'd and supported those Incendiaries, in order to bring us under a Popish Prince, and a *French* Government.

Country-m. Our Representatives shall have my Prayers and Thanks, Master, and those of my honest Country Neighbours, so long as we have a Being: for I take this Victory over our Enemies at Home to be of greater Consequence, than all those we have had over our Enemies Abroad; for a Traytor is more dangerous than an open Assailant, and of all Traytors, those are most to be dreaded, who would arm the Gospel against the Government, and make Religion contrary to its Nature, an Instrument of Rebellion. I am hugely pleas'd, Master, that our wise and brave Representatives have encourag'd Vertue, by recommending Mr. *Hoadly*, as well as punish'd Vice, by censuring Dr. *Sacheverell*, and hope that the former will have as good an Effect as the latter, since the one encourages the Friends of our Constitution, as the other discourages its Enemies. Our House of Commons deserve immortal Praise for asserting so bravely, and so seasonably the Queen's just Title, and the Subjects just Rights, against Pulpit-Incendiaries, by what Titles soever dignify'd and distinguish'd.

Obs. You say very well, *Roger*; there's no Doubt but they have the Blessing of the whole Nation, and of the Confederacy, for giving this necessary Check to seditious Malecontents, who would have divided us at Home, in order to make us a Prey to our Enemies Abroad. This is certainly the greatest Blow that has been given to arbitrary Power since the Revolution, the Principles of which our Legislature has so gloriously re-asserted. I hope 'twill be a Caution to such of our Clergy as love to make the 30th of *January* a Madding-Day. Let us in God's Name treat the Murderers of King *Charles* with what Severity they please; but there's no Reason, that, contrary to the Act of Oblivion, 12 *Car.* 2. Cap. 11. they should make their Pulpits resound with Terms of Distinction and Reproach, so unbecoming the Spirit of the Gospel; and to keep alive the Seeds of Discord and Contention, much less is it reasonable, that, contrary to 12 *Car.* 2. Cap. 30. they should charge the Crime of a few Miscreants, as they are there call'd, upon a whole Nation, or preach up the Illegality of resisting Princes, or those that have their Commission from any Powers whatever, as Dr. *Sacheverell* did, contrary to Chap. 2. Sess. 2. of 1 *William* and *Mary*. Nor is it just, that they should prevaricate as usual, by tipping up the Faults of others, and not saying one Word of the pernicious Counsels and Sermons of their own Faction; which put King *Charles* upon those arbitrary Measures which lay'd the Foundation of his and the Nation's Calamities, as appears by all the Histories of those Times, by the Proceedings of Parliament, and by their own Earl of *Clarendon's* History. But we will quit this Subject now, *Roger*, and leave Dr. *Sacheverell* to the supreme Justice of the Nation, without agravating his Crime, which is under their Cognizance, and heartily wish, that by a sincere Repentance and publick Recantation, he may obtain the Compassion and Mercy of God and the Government, as he has now made himself liable to their Justice.

Country-m. Here's a Letter, Master, from a *Northern* Justice of the Peace, a Knight and Baronet, who having seen your *Observators* about setting the Poor on Work, offers, as a farther Expedient, that by Act of Parliament all the Gaols in *England*, if not in *Great Britain*, be made Work-houses, as that of *Exeter* was, by 19 *Car.* 2.

Obs. I think he's much in the right on't; I will presume to add to his Thoughts, *Roger*, that I conceive the Act should be made general, and the Justices incorporated, to make Purchases for that Purpose; and that whatever Lands they purchase in a Town and County of it self, be made County-Ground, if they build either Hall, Goal, or Work-house, or for Polling, the Counties at large in Elections, then may their Proceedings be truly said to be legal, and not *Coram non Judice*; for at this very Day he says the Judge on the *Assize* Bench for the County of *Nottingham* sits in the County, and all the Council and Jury in the Town and County of the Town of *Nottingham*; and if the Judge stand up, and lean over his Cushion, to direct the Jury, his Head is out of the County of *Nottingham*, and within that of the Town. By a late Act of Parliament, most Elections for the Counties fall to be within the Corporation-Towns, that are distinct Counties of themselves; and if their Halls don't large enough for as few as, to take their Polls, then are they obliged to [illegible]

Courts to the Fields a Mile off, let the Weather be never so unseasonable.

Country-m. This, and many other Inconveniencies, might be remedy'd by a general Act, Master, whilst each respective County is unwilling (especially while the Poor lie so heavy upon them) to be at the Expence of a special Act.

Obs. Then, *Roger*, might the Justices of the Peace of the respective Counties, at their first general Sessions Quarterly, or the major Part of them there present, if they should find it needful, provide a Stock of such Materials as they judge convenient for setting poor Prisoners at Work, in such a Manner, and by such Ways, as other County Charges by the Law are and may be levy'd and rais'd; and to pay and provide fit Persons to oversee and set such poor Prisoners at Work, and make such Orders for their Accounts, as they should think needful; and likewise for punishing Neglects and other Abuses, and for bestowing the Profits arising by the Labour of the Prisoners for their Relief, and might alter, revoke, or amend such their Orders, from Time to Time, with a Proviso, that no Parish should be rated above *6 d. per* Week towards this Charge, having a due Regard to the respective Values of the several Parishes in each County; which would be a sufficient Provision for the Relief and setting on Work of poor and needy Persons committed to the common Goals for Felony and other Misdemeanors, who many Times perish before their Tryal, whilst the Poor, whether for Debt, or otherwise, living idly, and misemploy'd, become debauch'd, and come forth Graduates in the Practice of Thievery, and all Sorts of Lewdnesses.

Country-m. He farther adds, Master, that the County of *Nottingham* have lately purchas'd a Piece of Ground adjoining to the County Goal and Hall, to enlarge them both; and that the Justices design (if the Queen and Parliament will give them Leave) to make a large Work-Room under the new Hall for that Purpose, arch'd with Bricks, to prevent the obstreperous Noise of the Prisoners from being prejudicial to the Courts in Assize and Session Times: But you'll say, Master, they must be all errand Tongue-Pads, as well as some Foot-Pads, that can out-noise some Lawyers.

Obs. That may be obviated, *Roger*, by their Godfathers granting them Play-days during the Assizes, and the County allowing them Bread, as now, if there be no Over-work to answer those Vacations.

Country-m. I would have as little Play allow'd them as may be, Master. Let them work all the Week, and then they'll be glad to celebrate the Sabbath, as a Day of Rest, more than they us'd to do before. I would not have the Drones so encourag'd, as to invite over the Bees to their Side: Let every Mother's Son and Daughter of them either work or starve. I'm sure neither my *Joan* nor I let Mr. *Sloth* set a Foot within our Doors.

Obs. 'Tis reasonable in Truth, *Roger*, that every Man should do his Endeavour to learn and labour truly to get his own Living, and do his Duty in that State of Life unto which it has pleas'd God to call him. Nature herself is never idle, and a Beggar (especially that has made himself such) has no more a Prerogative, than a Prince, to be so.

Country-m. True, Master, such as through Luxury or Idleness, bring themselves to a Goal for Debt, or otherwise should work there according to their Abilities, and earn their Bread by the Sweat of their Brows, because, whilst out of that Place, they never were us'd to eat that of Carefulness, as my poor Family does, why should they be encourag'd to live in Idleness, in hopes of Relief, according to the usual Burden of their Song, *That the Parish is bound to find 'em*, when perhaps the very Thoughts of working in a Goal, will induce many of them to use an honest Industry, in hopes of never coming thither? And the very Criminals, if oblig'd before their Tryals to work, as well as after, in some Cases specify'd in a late Act of Parliament, in the House of Correction, and not to be maintain'd altogether at the Expence of the County, will be a greater Terror to them, than the Thoughts of making a wry Face or two at the Gallows, or going to Heaven in their Shoes and Stockings, as some profanely and contemptuously call their last Swing between Heaven and Earth.

Obs. I approve the Project, *Roger*; a Criminal will be the greater Proficient at his Work, according to the Time he comes in between the Goal-Deliveries, and will be little Charge to the County, and have less Time to spend in Rioting, &c. or seeking how to evade a just Judgment; and if he be confin'd to the House of Correction for a Year or two under a good Master, he'll be an expert Hemp-Knocker, and go out Master of that Art, and so inur'd and accustom'd to Labour, that he'll ever after think it his Duty and Delight to work for his Livelihood.

Country-m. Master, you had like to have forgot that there will be this farther publick Advantage by adding a Work-house to every Goal, the Prisoners will not only be thinner, which will prevent many Distempers, but there will be more Room at this Juncture when we are at War with the most Christian *Turk*, as well as in Time to come, for lodging our impress'd Men more wholsomely and conveniently.

Advertisements.

This Day is publish'd,

☞ London's Medicinal-Informer: containing, 1. A brief Enquiry into the ancient State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery in the World. 2. The present State of those Professions in London. 3. Quacks rightly distinguish'd from other Practicers, characteris'd, and chalkt'd. 4. The Venereal Disease in its Cause, Nature, Signs, dangerous Effects, best, most cheap, easy, safe, and private Methods of Cure, truly represented, in order to prevent Peoples being ruin'd either by that Disease, or by unskilful Pretenders to its Cure. By a London Physician. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-noster-row. Price 1 s.

☞ The Proceedings of the Lords and Commons in the Year 1628 against Roger Manwaring, Doctor in Divinity, (the Sacheverell of those Days) for two seditious high-flying Sermons, entitl'd, Religion and Allegiance. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row.

☞ A Letter to a Member of Parliament from Mr. John Partridge, touching his Almanack for the Year 1710, and the Injunction, whereby the publishing of it is stay'd for the present. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row.

Scriptographia; *or*, Written Print-Hand; (*which can't be imitated by any other Printer*) *fit for Bills of Lading, Bills of Sale, Bonds of all Sorts, Receipts for the Land-Tax, &c. Sea-mens Wills and Tickets of Leave, Letter of Attorney, Warrants of all Sorts, Releases, Indentures, or any other blank Law-Forms.* N.B. *All Persons that please, may have the above-mention'd, or any other Business, printed on the same, less, or larger Characters of the like, by* H. Meere, *Printer, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, London.*

☞ Ruptures and Swellings in the Navel or Groin, in Men, Women, and Children, from their Birth to 60 Years of Age, cur'd; and Trusses of all Sorts, according to the Nature of the Rupture, made by Andrew Boyd, over against the Black-Fryar in Water-Lane, Black-Fryars; where he, and his late Father-in-Law, Mr. Smith, have practis'd above 40 Years, besides Experience in Scotland; but could never be prevail'd on to publish in this Manner 'till now, that so many Pretenders set up who abuse Patients, and pretend to make Spring-Trusses they know nothing of; the said Mr. Smith having taught his Art of curing Ruptures, and making Spring-Trusses, to none but his said Son-in-Law, Mr. Boyd, who makes those Spring-Trusses so, as they suit the Motion of the Body, either riding on Horse-back, or in a Coach, or at any Manner of Exercise, as the Patient pleases, who may screw them up more or less, by Screws in the Pad, as Occasion requires; the like of which no Man makes but himself.

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